

vote, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 27 ayes, 2 nays, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Motion carries and the debate is closed. Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President and members, I would like to yield my closing time to Senator Johnson, Vard Johnson.

PRESIDENT: Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, as all of you know, I have been intimately involved with the debate on LR 16 and Initiative 300, just as Senator DeCamp and a number of other senators here. I offered the kill motion originally. The kill motion was approved by a majority of the members. On a reconsideration motion, the kill motion was reconsidered and failed. LR 16 was kept alive. We then appointed a special task force. Senator Conway was the motivating factor or the moving factor primarily for the task force appointment. I sat through many hours, I guess it was 30 hours according to John Cavanaugh of the number of meetings, on the task force. The task force did write a majority report. There was a very strong series of minority dissents to that majority report. Subsequent to the task force report, a variety of senators have gotten together privately to discuss various alternatives to an outright repeal of Initiative 300. At no time, at no time has there been anything approaching 25 votes for any one approach, and to think of getting 30 votes for any one approach is very, very difficult. LR 16 probably could be killed, I suppose, but maybe it couldn't be killed. LR 16 maybe could be amended, I don't know. I am inclined to think not. The better part of valor is to bracket the bill, is to bracket this measure. It will no longer be considered during the course of the legislative session. Now the reason why this has come to pass in my view is that the issue itself no longer belongs to the Legislature, it belongs to the people. It belongs to the people because it was the people themselves who took the initiative route and put the matter into the Constitution, and it is no longer a legislative issue, even though the Nebraska Legislature deals with it, discusses it, talks about it, deliberates on it, reflects on it, ruminates on it like a cow chewing its cud, even though we go through all those things, the issue at this juncture transcends this Legislature. It belongs to the people. The people took the law into their own hands as